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~~Process for the preparation of alkylphosphonous acid  
esters.~~

*Abstract of the Disclosure*  
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The present invention relates to a process for the preparation of alkylphosphonous acid esters which comprises

- a) reacting elemental yellow phosphorus with alkylating agents in the presence of a base to give a mixture which comprises, as principal constituents, the (metal) salts of alkylphosphonous, phosphorous and hypophosphorous acids,
- b) esterifying the principal constituents of the mixture from a) to give an ester mixture,
- c) isolating the ester of the alkylphosphonous acid from the ester mixture.

The invention likewise relates to the use of the alkylphosphonous acid esters prepared by this process as precursors for further syntheses, inter alia for the preparation of crop protection agents.